

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, line 23 to page 7, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

The heat for the decomposition of the metal chlorate or other inorganic oxygen containing salt may be provided in a variety of ways, both at startup and after fuel cell operation has begun. In the exemplary implementation illustrated in Figures 3 and 4, heat is provided at startup by a parasitic heater 140, i.e. a heater which consumes energy stored in the fuel cell system 100. In other words, the parasitic heater 140 performs the function of heating the inorganic oxygen containing salt to a temperature sufficient to cause decomposition. The exemplary parasitic heater 140, which may also be used to regulate the amount of heat that is supplied to the oxygen producing material 134 in the manner described below, is a resistive heater that includes a plurality of resistors 142 in a housing 144. The heater 140 is powered by a battery 146 that is recharged by the fuel cell 102 during fuel cell operations. The battery 146 may also be used to power the controller 120. The resistors 142 are carried on the exterior of the housing 132 and, accordingly, the housing 132 should be formed from material that is relatively high in thermal conductivity.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 8-18 with the following amended paragraph:

Once the fuel cell reaction has started, heat for the decomposition of the inorganic oxygen containing salt is provided by a heater 148 (Figure 4) that uses the byproducts from the fuel cell anode and cathode chambers. In other words, the heater 148 performs the function of heating the inorganic oxygen containing salt to a temperature sufficient to cause decomposition. The exemplary heater 148 is a catalytic combustor which includes a housing 150 that encloses an interior region 152 in which catalytic material (not shown) is located. Referring to Figure 1, the heater 148 receives

some of the byproducts and unused reactants (if any) from the anode-side outlet line 130, which are burned to produce heat, by way of an inlet line 154. The heater 148 also receives some of the byproducts and unused reactants (if any) from the cathode-side outlet line 138 by way of an inlet line 155. The output from the heater 148 is transferred to the waste products storage device 116 through an outlet line 156.